



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-02-135

UNSCHEDULED WINTER NATURAL GAS FILING APPROVED FOR LACLEDE GAS COMPANY

Jefferson City (March 1, 2002)---Natural gas customers of Laclede Gas Company will see **lower natural gas rates** under an unscheduled winter season filing approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission. This decrease, which primarily reflects a reduction in the wholesale cost of natural gas, takes effect March 7, 2002.

A residential customer currently pays \$0.41250 per Ccf (100 cubic feet of gas). Under this filing, the rate will drop to \$0.32250 per Ccf, a decrease of approximately 9 cents per Ccf. **The effect on a typical residential heating customer for the rest of the winter heating season is a decrease of approximately \$14 when compared to rates currently in effect.**

Approximately 60% to 70% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. The wholesale cost of natural gas (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its supplier for natural gas) is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission. The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply and demand. The Missouri Public Service Commission does have regulatory review authority to ensure that regulated gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

This rate decrease will affect approximately 632,600 Laclede Gas Company natural gas customers in the City of St. Louis as well as the Missouri counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Butler, Iron, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve.

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